

Chairman Powell,

The danger of a media wholly owned by a few corporations is now patently clear. Corporations, even public corporations like Sinclair Broadcasting Group, are controlled by a very small number of people. In this case Sinclair is controlled by the Smith brothers of Baltimore. There can be little question that the Smith brothers are supporting the Republican Party both in their financial campaign contributions, in the inflammatory words they permit Mark Hyman to air, and in their directions to local stations to air the scurrilous anti-Kerry screed "Stolen Honor" just days before the election. Where is the free enterprise force that balances their power? Where is your concern for Democracy?

If the Smith brothers want to air propaganda, they should use the movie theaters. By using the public airwaves and portraying this garbage as "news," they are violating the public trust and behaving uncomfortably like fascists. Television and radio executives used to believe in their duty to inform the public. With the insane rush to corporatization that you have supported, executives now view the public airwaves as their own preserve to inform or deceive as they see fit. It is the responsibility of the FCC to stop the showing of "Stolen Honor" and publicly notify the Smiths that all of their broadcast licenses are now in jeopardy.